

AN ATLAS OF SKULL ROENTGENOGRAMS. Bernard S. Epstein, M.D., Associate Radiologist, the Jewish Hospital, New York; and Leo M. Davidoff, M.D., Neurosurgeon, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, Director of Neurological Surgery, the Beth Israel Hospital, New York. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1953. 415 pages, 603 illustrations on 315 engravings, \$15.00.

Added to the numerous recent volumes on the x-ray examination of the skull is this atlas from New York City. After the usual chapters on the normal skull, and on congenital variations and malformations, there are chapters on trauma, infections, brain tumors, miscellaneous tumors, tumors of the vault of the skull and non-neoplastic diseases of the skull.

The work purports to be an atlas, and we are happy to report that the roentgenograms are of good size and most are of good quality. The legends permit examination of the reproductions without reference to the text. The text is pleasantly brief. There are a number of laminograms, but the work does not cover encephalograms, ventriculograms or angiograms.

There is a particularly good chapter on meningiomas. The index is rather brief. The book will be of value to radiologists.

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FANCONI AND WALLGREN'S TEXTBOOK OF PEDIATRICS—Edited by W. R. F. Collis, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.L., D.P.H., Lecturer in Pediatrics, Dublin University; Director, Department of Pediatrics, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. Translator and Co-Editor: E. Kawerau, M.B., M.Sc., A.R.I.C., Senior Lecturer in Chemical Pathology, St. Mary's Hospital, London. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1952. 1104 pages, \$19.50.

This is an excellent translation of the Textbook of Pediatrics by Fanconi and Wallgren, which first appeared in the German language in 1950 and has since gone through a second edition. The present volume incorporates some, but not all, of the revisions which appeared in the second German edition. It is printed on high quality paper which sets off well the numerous illustrations and diagrams which supplement the text.

In addition to the chapters written by the chief authors and their Swiss and Swedish colleagues, numerous additional contributors from England, Holland, Germany, Finland, Norway and Czechoslovakia are included.

Together with the English text of Moncrief and Patterson, this volume probably represents the most up-to-date and complete work on general pediatrics published outside of the United States. As such, it will prove a useful and stimulating supplement to standard American texts in the library of pediatricians and those physicians who are particularly interested in children. Although there is a list of selected references for each chapter, the American reader will find less documentation of statements than that to which he is accustomed in texts published in this country. There is usually a more personal quality to the writing, in which the opinion of the author is given considerable weight. This particular characteristic is often found in European medical literature, and it is apt to either please or annoy one—depending on what is being sought. In any case, it makes for stimulating and interesting reading, particularly of a supplemental type.

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DOCTOR'S SOLILOQUY, A—Joseph Haykim Krimsky, M.D. Philosophical Library, New York, N.Y., 1953. 116 pages, \$2.75.

There are many types of philosophers, the light, the heavy, the silent and the loquacious. Perhaps one of the more distinguished light and loquacious ones in recent years was Mr. Will Rogers. While immortalized for his observation that all he knew was what he read in the papers, he may perhaps be better remembered for his happy remark, made

while gazing at the chorus girls in New York: "Think of it," he said, "five or six years from now every one of those girls will be a year older."

Amongst the heavy philosophers appear many of the great names of thought and literature, including Leviticus, Marcus Aurelius and Plato. Their obiter dicta were numerous, and the things for which they are best remembered are spread upon the pages of a thousand texts.

The author of this little soliloquy has drawn heavily upon these spreadings, and reflects or reproduces them with liberal interleavings from the Bible. He has gathered his "thoughts" more or less in the style of The Meditation, but seasoned them not with the light touch of humor nor the wry smile of St. Francis. The 116 pages are divided into a series of 37 sections, in which the author wanders from the days of his youth to the evenings of his seniority. In the resume he opines that ethical religion is the "binding force to tie all men together. . . . In all great religions is ethical conduct. . . . in the Ten Commandments, and in the cardinal precepts of Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam."

The author is a graduate of New York University and Bellevue Medical College; he has practiced medicine for almost 50 years, the last several being in the Veterans Administration Clinic of Huntington, West Virginia. He appears to be a serious student of scripture and philosophy.

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UNIPOLAR LEAD ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY AND VECTORCARDIOGRAPHY—Including the Standard Leads, the aV and V Leads, the Cardiac Arrhythmias and the Principles of Vectorcardiography—3rd Edition—Emanuel Goldberger, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Attending Physician, Montefiore Hospital, New York, Lecturer in Medicine, Columbia University. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1953. 601 pages, 312 illustrations, \$10.00.

This third edition of Goldberger's well-known text is far superior to the previous two. He has brought the subject of electrocardiography up to date and has included one of the clearest discussions of vectorcardiography now available. His discussion of the electrical axis, ventricular gradient and vectorcardiography is a sound presentation of the principles, yet does not include the minute technical details which would be confusing to the practicing physician and for which original manuscripts should be consulted. His emphasis on the spatial vector and not merely the frontal plane vectorcardiogram is to be commended.

The chapter on the derived vectorcardiogram with his own method, using orthographic projection, is quite helpful.

The section on interpretation of normal and abnormal vectorcardiograms is relatively incomplete, because the reader does not know how consistent is the pattern that Goldberger describes. Furthermore, he does not give a sufficient discussion on what additional information, if any, can be obtained from the vectorcardiogram.

The reviewer disagrees with Goldberger when the author attempts to differentiate left ventricular hypertrophy from left ventricular strain, basing the former on high voltage of the QRS complex and the latter on ST-T changes. Stress is a mechanical term, whereas the electrocardiogram records electrical events. Further, ST-T abnormalities are quite common in left ventricular hypertrophy.

One last criticism is that the book would be more palatable if the author did not use the personal pronoun "I" with such avidity.

The book is an excellent addition to our literature on electrocardiography and vectorcardiography, is remarkable for the author's own original contributions and methods of presentation, and as such should be very well received by the medical profession.